



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

December 19, 2018

Secretary of State Rossana Rosado
Department of State
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Secretary Rosado:

The Department of State informed our offices on December 18th that the state monitor in the Town of Ramapo's Building Department would be removed.

This announcement came with little notice to our offices following a new report, which was not released to us prior to the decision. The Department of State claims the report will show Ramapo has made significant improvements in safety and zoning code enforcement.

When the report is submitted to our offices we will have additional comments based upon the specific findings and recommendations. In the interim, however, we would like to establish a mechanism where we can ensure current and future building code concerns are properly evaluated and addressed.

Our top priority is the safety of our residents and first responders. Illegal partitions in apartments, basements and attics put the lives of first responders and residents in jeopardy. In addition, improper temporary COs, temporary structures, inadequate fire suppression, illegal electric and water hookups, deficient turning radius and parking conditions and insufficient access for fire apparatus can all lead to injury or death. We want to ensure that all our municipalities take this situation seriously. In the case of Ramapo, however, where the state has already found deficiencies, we want the public to be assured that tangible progress will continue to be achieved.

We respectfully request that the Department of State supply our offices with a dedicated liaison that we can consult with for complaints and questions from first responders, residents and officials. In addition, we respectfully request that Department order the municipality to set up a formal process where our office can submit similar complaints. We are concerned that throughout this oversight process, the expertise and experiences of our fire department officials and other community advocates was not properly utilized. We believe a formalized and robust process to receive future complaints could help fill this gap and ensure future dangerous situations are properly addressed.

As we look to the future, we look forward to reviewing your final report and hope to work with the Department to further improve our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carlucci".

Senator David Carlucci
38th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Zebrowski".

Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski
Assembly District 96

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen C. Jaffee".

Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee
Assembly District 97